

# AMATEURADIO

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## Radio Amateurs Praised for Olympic Efforts

PALO ALTO, CAL. — “We couldn’t have done it without them.”

That statement has been repeated many times by 1984 Olympics organizers about the thousands of volunteers who made this year’s Games a success, and one group that especially earned the compliment was a team of 11 Amateur Radio operators from Palo Alto, California.

As volunteer members of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee (LAOOC) Technology group, the hams provided communications and other services at Stanford Stadium, one of the Olympic soccer sites. Among the 11 members of the team were experts in disaster communications, electronics, and radio message handling — plus other skills that unexpectedly surfaced as time went on. They put in 10-to-16-hour days for two weeks, just to be a part of the Olympics and to serve their community.

The team was put together especially for the Olympics by Ted Harris, Disaster Services Director for the Palo Alto chapter of the American Red Cross. Harris, who is also a

radio amateur, had previously worked with many of the team members during such disasters as the Coalinga (California) earthquake of 1983.

The primary goal of the group was to assist with communications in case of an emergency at Stanford. Fortunately, this never became necessary, so they spent most of their time assisting the Olympic staff with routine communications. They trained staff members on the use of some 90 handheld (“walkie-talkie” type) radios and provided constant radio access to the chief medical officer.

The team members also gladly helped with many other crucial Olympics activities, from coordinating 30 buses a day bringing handicapped and underprivileged children to the Games, to fixing a videocassette recorder at the Olympic Village so the athletes could watch movies. It was this “how can we help?” attitude that won special admiration from the Olympic organizers. As Technology Manager Christopher Veal describes it, “Whenever we

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## Darrell Pace: Shooting for Gold

Darrell Pace, Olympic Gold Medalist in archery, was able to keep in touch with his family during the Summer Games by using his portable Amateur Radio set. Darrell has been interested in radio communications and technology ever since he can remember and earned his first ham radio license in March. He is presently active in two Cincinnati ham radio clubs, the Butler County VHF Club and the Cincinnati Repeater Association. Recently, Darrell participated in Amateur Radio Field Day, an exercise in which radio hams all over the U.S. and Canada test their communications ability under simulated emergency conditions.

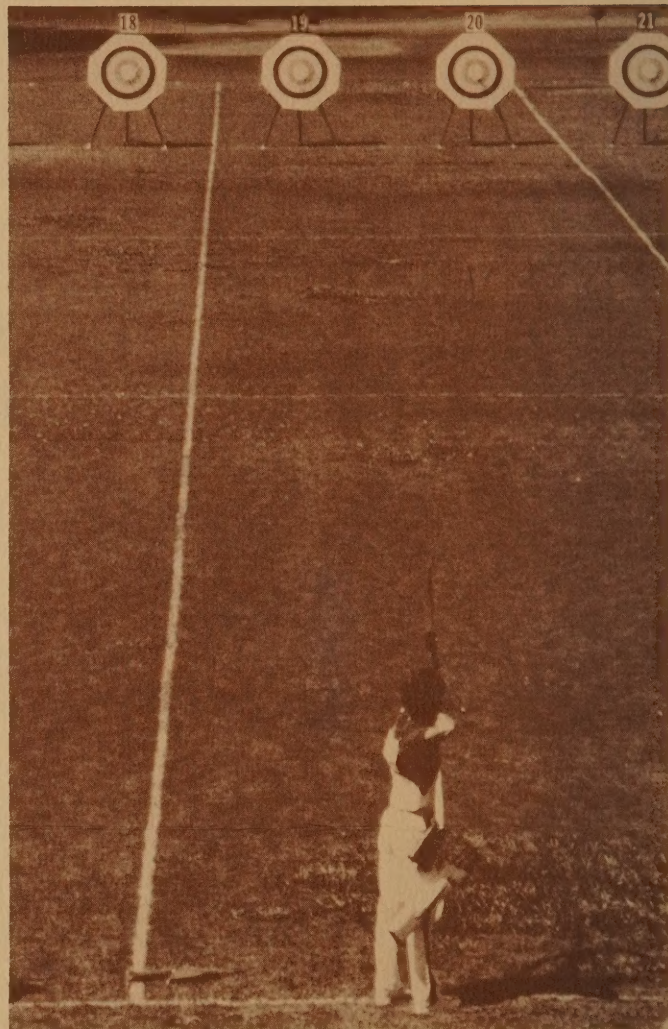
Darrell started his archery career in May 1970, when he was thirteen years old. He joined the Junior Olympic Development Program, and, within two short years, became the national archery champion. Between 1972 and 1976, Darrell won five consecutive national championships. He competed in two world competitions, participated in two Olympics, and holds seven national titles.

Darrell carried his little ham radio "rig" with him constantly as he toured Los Angeles during the Olympics. "I was able to keep tabs on the family. There were amateur operators that were working within the organization of the tournament. I met people over the radio and visited them during the Games."

While shooting his way to the Gold at the archery range at the University of Southern California (USC) campus, Darrell and the other athletes were isolated from the spectators. But because he had his ham radio set with him, he was able to keep in touch with his family and friends. While Darrell's parents were watching from the stands, they cheered him on via ham radio. Darrell says that using the radio "was much better than yelling" back and forth.

Presently, Darrell is taking a break from archery. He is doing a lot of public relations work, and is making public appearances in parades and so forth. Darrell's future plans include "upgrading" his Amateur Radio license class, and plans "to go for another Gold in '88."

—Wayne T. Yoshida



Gold Medalist Darrell Pace firing bullseyes on the 70-meter range on the second of four days of archery competition at El Dorado Park, Long Beach. Darrell's first place finish duplicates the gold he won in Montreal in 1976.

(photo by Chuck Lobb)

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE? Contact Perry Williams, ARRL's Washington Area Coordinator, and arrange for a personal visit by calling (202) 296-9107.

## Along League Lines

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unique way. This one event enabled radio amateurs to serve in almost every sub-part under the "Basis and Purpose" of Amateur Radio (FCC Section 97.1):

(a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

(b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.

(c) Encouragement and improvement of the

amateur radio service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.

(d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.

(e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

A "tip of the hat" to all the hams who contributed to the success of the Olympics by volunteering their services, free of charge, to the Olympic Games and government agencies.

## Olympic Efforts

Continued from first page



Eleven Amateur Radio operators from the San Francisco Peninsula served as Technology Volunteers for the Olympics soccer games at Stanford University. Their services were coordinated by Ted Harris of the American Red Cross. Pictured here are (top row) Rick Joslin, Mac McDermott, George Raven, Bob Tarone, Jay Damkoehler. Bottom row: Ted Harris, Bill Robinson, Walt Read and Harry Halberstadt. Not shown are Sy Stein and Ron Chiappari.

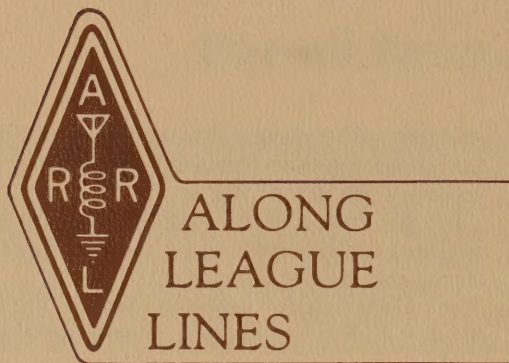
(photo by Patty Winter)

needed communications — even where no one expected to need communications — they provided it. In a word, they were invaluable."

Amazingly, perhaps not so surprisingly, considering the devotion many hams have toward their hobby — Harris' team also found time to talk with over 4,000 other people around the world, using an Amateur Radio station they set up near the stadium. Exemplifying the spirit of good will that lets Amateur Radio cross political and ideological boundaries, they even made several contacts with amateurs in countries that chose not to participate in the Olympics.

Although Harris and his associates all agreed it was a hectic, exhausting two weeks out of their lives, everyone says they'd readily do it again. They're justifiably proud of the service they gave not only to the staff and soccer enthusiasts at Stanford, but to the millions of people around the world for whom the 1984 Olympics were a symbol of international harmony.

— Patty Winter



The 23rd Olympiad is history. Two weeks of athletic competition of the finest kind. New athletic world records were set. Despite the Soviet-led boycott, the Olympic spirit smiled upon the competition. Zig-zagging from New York to Los Angeles, the Torch Run "knitted" our nation together with a refreshing sensation of nationalism and pride. The Opening Ceremony produced an unrehearsed and spontaneous celebration of joy and togetherness. Despite the "spread" of the Games all over the state, everything seemed well coordinated.

The common denominator that helped solve the logistical problems in the Olympics is **communication**. America and the media focused on the athletic events. However, "behind the scenes," ham radio operators quietly and professionally assisted and coordinated the separate elements to successfully orchestrate the 1984 Olympics.

At the UCLA Olympic Village, a ham radio station provided a free message service for the athletes, subject to international radio laws. The amateur station also made commemorative contacts to other Amateur Radio operators all over the world, including to those operators in countries not participating in the Olympic Games. Operating almost twelve hours a day, the UCLA Olympic Village ham station was able to pass messages to and from 38 countries that permit third-party traffic with the United States. (The term "third-party traffic" refers to the exchange of international messages on behalf of non-radio amateurs. Certain countries, by formal agreements, allow third-party traffic to be exchanged with the U.S. This is done free of charge as a public service by Amateur Radio operators.) A similar Amateur Radio station was set up near Stanford Stadium in Northern California during the soccer games.

The ham radio volunteers provided primary and backup communications for public safety and health service organizations such as the Red Cross, the Los Angeles Police Department and the LA County Sheriff's Department.

Through communications, the Amateur Radio Service participated in the 23rd Olympiad in a very special and

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